

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 16-18 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon (U.S. Patent No. 6,184,856) in view of Oh-e (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,732) and further in view of Hou (U.S. Patent No. 6,113,810); rejects claims 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon in view of Oh-e and Hou, and further in view of Comiskey (U.S. Patent No. 6,376,828); and rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon in view of Oh-e and Hou, and further in view of Shirochi (U.S. Patent No. 6,376,828). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Specifically, Applicants assert that Gordon, Oh-e, Hou, Comiskey, and Shirochi, individually or in combination, fail to disclose an image display medium including at least a filter of plural colors, wherein the filter is divided into plural chromatic regions and plural achromatic regions, each of the achromatic regions being disposed between adjacent chromatic regions so as to fully separate the chromatic regions from each other, as recited in independent claims 1 and 16-18.

Gordon, in col. 6, lines 11-13, merely discloses that the light transmissive fluids 12a, 12b, 12c in cells 14, 16, and 18, respectively, are separated by barriers 22. Moreover, Gordon, in col. 7, lines 57-62, discloses that the barriers 22 are not necessary and need only be impervious to pigment particles. Accordingly, Gordon fails to disclose a filter of plural colors, wherein the filter is divided into plural chromatic regions and plural achromatic regions, each of the achromatic regions being disposed between adjacent chromatic regions so as to fully separate the chromatic regions from each other, as recited in independent claims 1 and 16-18.

Oh-e, in Figs. 6-8, discloses a black matrix consisting of perpendicular lines 22a and 22b. However, the black matrix of Oh-e separates only a part of each of R, G, and B sections, as shown, for example, in Fig. 6(A). Sections R, G, and B are shown to be in direct contact with each other throughout the entirety of the color filter 23. Thus, Oh-e fails to disclose a filter of plural colors, wherein the filter is divided into plural chromatic regions and plural achromatic regions, each of the achromatic regions being disposed between adjacent chromatic regions so as to fully separate the chromatic regions from each other, as recited in independent claims 1 and 16-18.

To the limited extent that Hou, Comiskey, and Shirochi are relied on by the Office Action to reject the claims in combination with Gordon and Oh-e, Applicants assert that Hou, Comiskey, and Shirochi fail to make up for the deficiencies of Gordon and OH-e. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that Hou, Comiskey, and Shirochi fail to disclose or suggest the above features recited in claims 1 and 16-18.

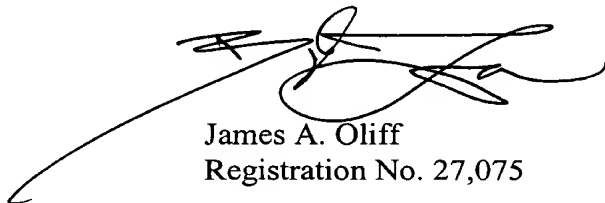
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Gordon, Oh-e, Hou, Comiskey, and Shirochi, individually or in combination, fail to disclose an image display medium including a filter of plural colors wherein each of the achromatic regions are disposed between adjacent chromatic regions so as to fully separate the chromatic regions from each other, as recited in independent claims 1 and 16-18.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 16-18 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-10 and 12-15 depend from claim 1, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter. Thus Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 and 12-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James A. Oliff', written over a horizontal line.

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